

## Message Text

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21-12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 /125 W  
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O 111801Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2726

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGE:OCO

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TS: PGOV, WB, GW, GE

1. TWO INCIDENTS INVOLVING WEST GERMAN AUTOBAHN TRAFFIC  
HAVE GIVEN RISE TO LOCAL CONCERN THAT GDR MAY BE TRYING TO  
CONVEY SIGNALS THAT IT HAS LATENT RIGHT TO IMPOSE ADDITIONAL  
CONTROLS ON TRAFFIC IN RETALIATION AGAINST WHAT IT  
REGARDS AS MISUSE OF TRANSIT ROUTES. PRESS REPORTED  
THAT IN EARLY MORNING HOURS DECEMBER 10 TRUCK TRAFFIC  
ENTERING WEST BERLIN WAS DELAYED UP TO HOUR AND A HALF  
AT GDR CHECKPOINT DRIELINDEN, WHILE TRAFFIC ENTERING  
GDR AT MARIENBORN EXPERIENCED DELAYS UP TO THREE HOURS.  
WEST GERMAN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, HOWEVER ATTRIBUTED DELAY TO  
BUNCHING OF TRAFFIC AGGRAVATED BY BAD ROAD  
CONDITIONS, AND SAID THAT NUMBER OF TRUCKS CLEARED WAS  
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NORMAL DURING THIS PERIOD. SENAT IS UNSURE WHETHER THIS

IS WHOLE EXPLANATION AND HAS SUGGESTED TO FRG  
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION THAT IT COMMUNICATE TO GDR  
UNDER ARTICLE 19 OF TRAFFIC AGREEMENT TO SEEK FURTHER  
INFORMATION. ACCORDING TO SENAT, PART OF PROBLEM WAS  
GDR DECISION TO PROCESS TRUCKS AT MARIENBORN IN BUNCHES  
OF ABOUT 25, LEADING TO TIEUP AT THAT END OF AUTOBAHN FOR  
BERLIN-BOUND TRAFFIC INCLUDING PASSENGER VEHICLES. DRIELINDEN  
PROCESSING MORE  
NORMAL. (IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, SENAT SPOKESMAN DECEMBER

10 SAID MATTER WAS CONCERN OF FRG IN FIRST INSTANCE AND MIGHT BE TAKEN

UP IN FRG-GDR TRANSIT AGREEMENT COMMISSION.)

2. SECOND INCIDENT OCCURRED AT GDR STAACKEN CHECKPOINT  
AT WEST BERLIN END OF HAMBURG ROUTE (ROUTE 5), WHEN  
WEST BERLINER, FINDING HIS CAR ABOUT TO BE SEARCHED,  
CRASHED VEHICLE INTO GUARD SHACK, JUMPED OUT, AND  
SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPED TO WEST BERLIN LEAVING EAST GERMAN  
"PASSENGER" BEHIND. GDR THEREUPON CLOSED CHECKPOINT TO  
ALL TRAFFIC FROM 0220 TO 0300.

3. ACCORDING TO STORY GIVEN WEST BERLIN POLICE BY  
TWO WEST BERLINER TRAVELLERS, A THIRD, BIZARRE AFFAIR  
TOOK PLACE AT MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 4, EAST OF FRIESACK  
ON ROUTE. 5. THE TRAVELLERS SAID THEY WERE STOPPED BY  
MAN IN SOVIET ARMY UNIFORM AT SUBMACHINE GUNPOINT, WHO  
DEMANDED DOCUMENTATION. AFTER SHOWING IDENTITY PAPERS,  
THE TWO WERE ALLEGEDLY ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ON THEIR WAY,  
BUT ONE MAN SAID HE HANDED OVER DM 2.50 AND PACK OF  
CIGARETTES TO "SOVIET," WHILE OTHER TURNED OVER WRIST WATCH.  
THE TWO SAID THEY DID NOT REPORT INCIDENT TO GDR OFFICIALS  
AS THEY WERE AFRAID OF GETTING INTO TROUBLE.

4. COMMENT: FIRST TWO INCIDENTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE  
FRG RESPONSIBILITY TO SORT OUT, AT LEAST IN FIRST INSTANCE.  
ALTHOUGH EGON BAHR WAS  
HEARD TO COMMENT AT PRESS CLUB DINNER DECEMBER 10, IN  
REGARD TO DELAYS THAT MORNING, THAT ALLIES MIGHT HAVE  
TO ACT. RE SECOND INCIDENT, THERE IS SOME PRECEDENT FOR  
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CLOSURE OF CHECKPOINTS AFTER INCIDENTS OCCUR. WE ARE  
NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIRD AFFAIR, WHICH SOUNDS  
A BIT FISHY.

5. USCOB CONCURS. KLEIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRAFFIC SAFETY, TRUCKS, TRAFFIC CONTROL, HIGHWAYS, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, BERLIN ACCESS DISPUTES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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